



NPS Overview

Gulf of Mexico Alliance
Federal Partners Meeting
July 8, 2005

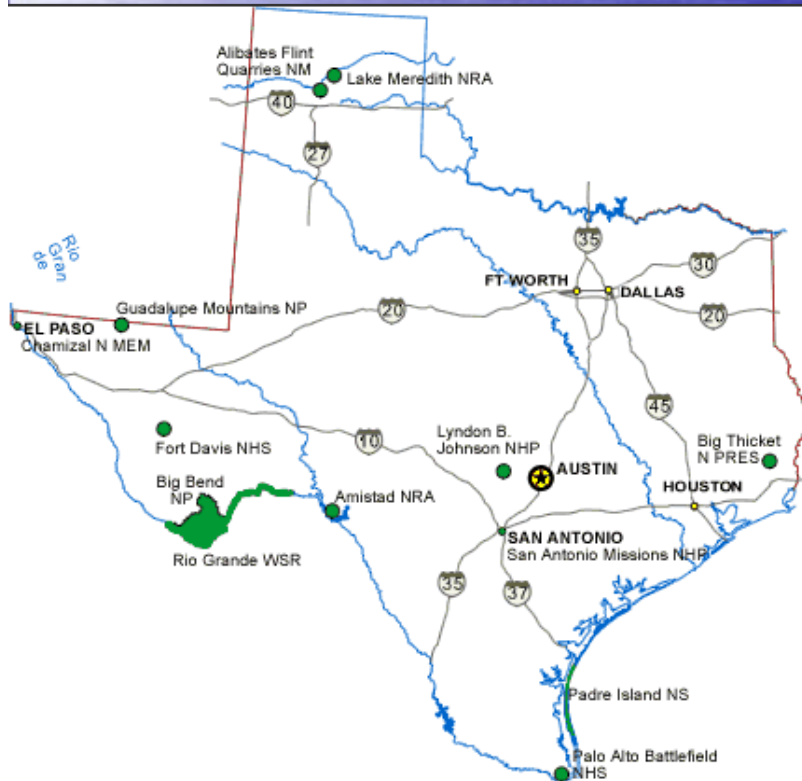
NPS Mission

"promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations, by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of said parks, monuments, and reservations which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Organic Act of 1916

Nationally.....

- 270 Park Units
 - National Parks, Seashores, Recreation Areas, Historic Sites, Preserves, Monuments, etc
 - Each governed by specific legislation as well as laws, regulations, and policy
- 7 Regions
 - Southeast and Midwest
- 5 Parks with submerged lands in the Gulf of Mexico



Padres Island National Seashore



- 130,434 Acres
- 66 Miles Coastline

Jean Lafitte NHP and Preserve



- 20,005 acres
- 18 miles of coastline

Gulf Islands National Seashore



- 138,000 acres
- 76 miles of coast

Everglades National Park



- 1.4 million acres
- 155 miles of coastline

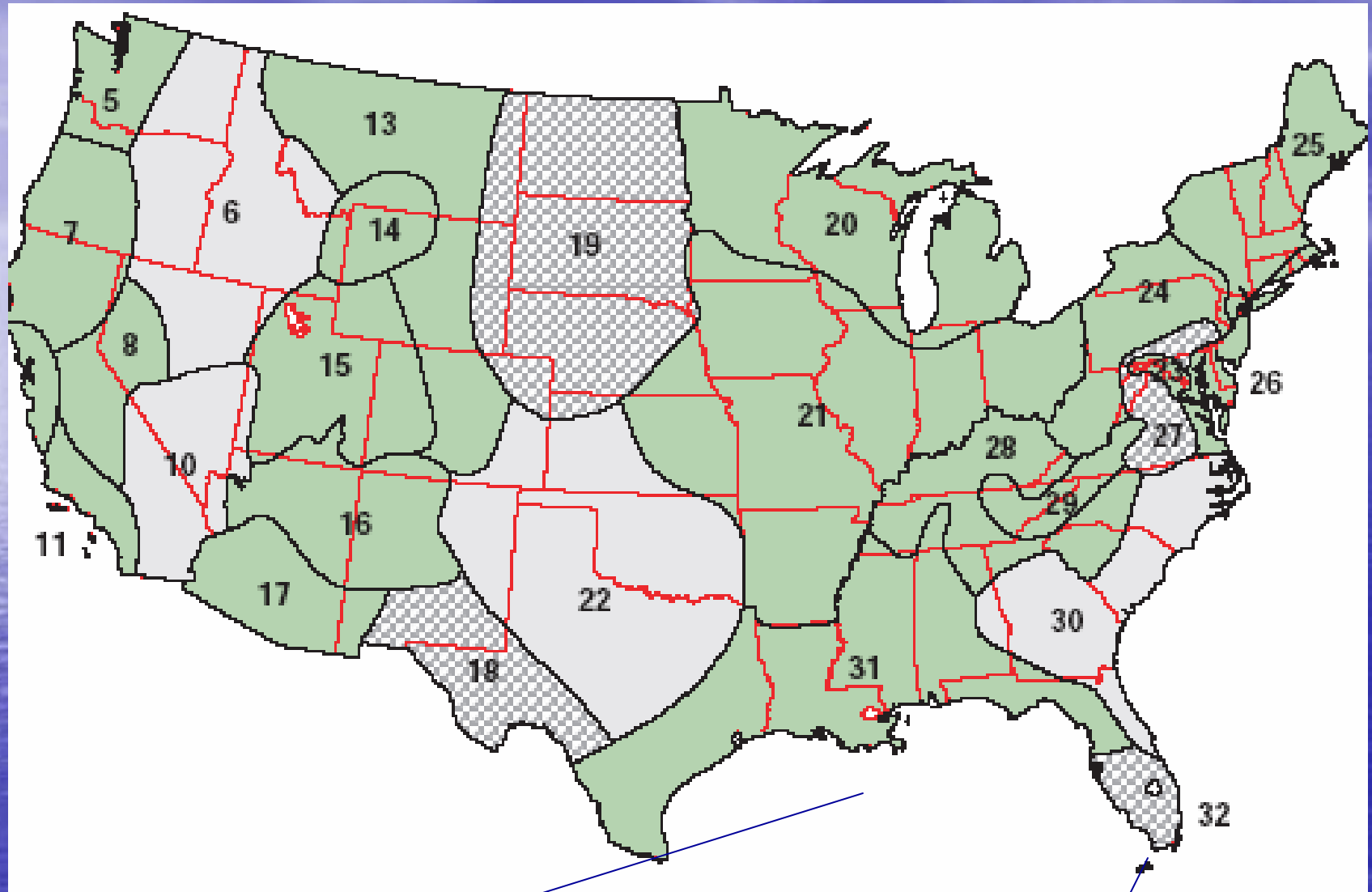


Dry Tortugas National Park



- 64,701 acres
- 4 miles coastline
- 64,661 acres submerged
- 46% of Park in Marine Reserve





Gulf Coast Network (8 parks)

South Florida/Caribbean Network
(6 parks)

5 Long Term Goals for I&M

- Baseline inventories of basic biological and geophysical natural resources
- Long-term monitoring programs to monitor ecosystem status and trends at various spatial scales.
- Using GIS and other tools that apply field data to aid park managers in identifying alternative management actions, assessing trade-offs, and evaluating outcomes.
- Integration with park planning, operation and maintenance, visitor protection, and interpretation
- Cooperation with other federal and state agencies to share resources, achieve common goals, and avoid unnecessary duplication of effort and expense.

5 Themes

- Nutrient Reduction/water quality
 - All parks in area affected by water quality associated w/ Gulf (Algal blooms, low DO, upland runoff, etc)
 - Working via S. FI Ecosystem Restoration, I&M water quality monitoring, coastal watershed assessments

5 Themes

- Coastal Wetlands
 - NPS manages seagrass beds, salt marshes, brackish swamps, and tidal flats in Gulf
 - Efforts include Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program, wetland restoration at Jean Lafitte and other Gulf Coast Parks
- Habitat
 - Concerns for turtle nesting, bird habitat, visitor conflicts
 - Developing habitat classification maps for terrestrial lands in I&M program; developing coastal vulnerability index values for coastal parks; addressing impacts of recreational use; limited LIDAR (DRTO)

5 Themes

- Education
 - Curriculum development
 - Partnerships (Texas State Aquarium)
 - Enlist volunteers from Civic and other organizations (marine debris pickup)
 - Interpretive programs
 - Education via Outreach (boat shows)